

MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

Saturday
April 5, 1975

Review of Saturday Papers

Both the N. Y. Times and Washington Post give 4-columns to their lead stories on the crash of the C-5A ^{which killed} ~~leaving~~ more than 100 Vietnamese orphans. Also front page, w/photos are stories on some of those children successfully united with their new American families. Baltimore Sun not available this morning, but Chicago Trib, N. Y. Daily News and Phila. Inquirer carry banner headlines citing the aircrash tragedy.

The new unemployment figures is the #2 story in the Times and below-the-fold in the Post, Trib, Inquirer and, and Pg. 2 of the Daily News.

President Ford:

"Ford Acts to Extend Plan For Unemployed Till '77," is 2-tier head over 2-column story by John Herbers in the Times above the fold. Herbers lead: "President Ford, responding to the news that unemployment reached 8.7 per cent of the work force in March, said he would recommend an extension until the end of 1976 of the emergency benefits program for the unemployed."

Herbers mentions Hathaway's nomination to the Interior post in his third graf, and goes on to cite the 13-weeks extension of benefits for those who funds are exhausted and the extension until the end of '76 of special compensation for those not previously covered.

Herbers says the President's proposals were expected by White House officials to get a friendly reception in Congress, but he says plans in both houses of Congress would spend \$6 billion on public service jobs, "a proposal that runs counter to Mr. Ford's announced pledge to keep the Federal budget deficit at \$60 billion."

The President's trip to the geothermal field and his meeting with western governors are briefly mentioned inside the Herbers' story.

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"Ford to Ask Extension of Jobless Aid," is head over Lou Cannon's story, running alongside Rowe's piece on new unemployment figures, below-the-fold in the Post. Cannon's lead, nearly identical to Herbers, is: "President Ford responded to the news of increasing unemployment by announcing he will propose legislation that would further extend unemployment benefits for jobless workers."

In his second graf, Cannon said the proposal was made during a speech that "capped a full day of varied activity reminiscent of a political campaign swing."

Following an account of the proposed legislation similar to Herbers', Cannon briefly reports the President's statement on the C-5A crash, the meeting "behind closed doors" with the governors; the strong defense of the Hathaway nomination; the appointment of Jim Wilderotter to be associate counsel; Cannon says the President held his "second political meeting in as many days, both of them private sessions" with GOP office holders and politicians from Calif."

Cannon says the President "left the impression (in that meeting) that he intends to campaign very hard for a full term in 1976." GOP State Chairman Haerle is quoted as saying, "They're all behind him here."

Cannon says, however, that it was "Vietnam, above all, that appeared to be on the President's mind," noting the late night meeting with Kissinger." Cannon reports Nessen attempted to "reconcile" the President "sharp" criticism of Thieu with Gen. Weyand's statement that Thieu made a "sound strategic action," "There's no conflict in these two things," Cannon quotes Nessen, saying Nessen added, "It was a sound strategic decision but the President thinks that tactically it was improperly carried out." In fact, the Cannon piece concludes, "Mr. Ford criticized both Thieu's decision to pull back and the way it was carried out..."

The Post carries a 5-column photo of the President greeting the lined-up children/families at Hamilton just above the continuation of the Cannon piece on Pg. 2.

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"Aid Extension For Jobless Sought by Ford," is the 3-tier head over Jack Germond story in the Star, in the lead position, but below a banner AP account of the C-5A crash.

Germond's lead: "Confronted by an unemployment rate that leaped from 8.2 to 8.7 per cent last month, President Ford announced that he would recommend two measures to Congress to extend special federal benefits to the jobless." Like Cannon's Post account, Germond's second graf says, "In a speech climaxing a day of campaign-like activity in northern California, Ford said he would propose. . . ." Following the account of the proposals, Germond said the news of the jump in unemployment "flew in the face of a generally optimistic report Ford had prepared for a speech to the San Francisco Bay Area Council. . . ."

Below a 3-column photo of the President conferring with an unidentified man at the geothermal plant, the inside continuation on Pg. 6 says the President, "throughout the last two days on the road, he has been clearly preoccupied by reports of a deteriorating situation in South Vietnam."

The Economy:

Dale's story in the Times is headed by 3-tiered head: "Jobless Rate Up To 8.7% In March, Highest Since '41."

Dale's lead: "Unemployment rose substantially in March. . . and the number of 'discouraged workers' who have dropped out of the labor force altogether reached a record of 1.1 million. . . ." Dale says the new figures "contained one potentially hopeful sign." The two separate measures of total employment both showed the smallest monthly loss of jobs since the recession began to hit with full force last September, Dale reported.

Dale quotes George Meany as ^{calling} ~~saying~~ the situation "appalling," adding that the official figures, plus the "discouraged workers" number produced an "actual" rate of 9.8 % unemployment. Meany also said the just-signed tax reduction package is "obviously not enough," Dale says.

Jim Rowe's story in the Post is headed by 2-tier head: "Jobless Rate Climbs to 8.7%; Level Is Highest Since 1941."

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Rowe's lead: "The unemployment rate resumed its steep upward climb last month after a brief pause in February." Rowe also cites the Labor Department's report that cites "widespread increases" in unemployed in white collar areas and the "sharp rise" in the number of discouraged workers.

But Rowe also reports that Julius Shiskin saw a "few, tentative signs in March that could indicate future improvement," one being that the layoff rate level in February and the "accession rate" rose for the second consecutive month, which Shiskin reported to the Joint Economic Comm., Rowe says.

Lee Cohn's story in the Star is headed by 3-tier: "Faint Signs Of Economic Upturn Seen."

Cohn's lead: "Unemployment at a 34-year high of 8.7 per cent shows that the recession still is deepening, but the first faint hints of an economic upturn later this year are starting to emerge, the government's top statistician said." Cohn recounts Shiskin's statements to the Joint Economic Comm.

Like Rowe's account in the Post, Cohn quotes Meany's "appalling" statement, but also reports that Meany said the "job-creating (spending) bills must be passed immediately, despite any implied threat of a presidential veto." Rowe recounts Shiskin's testimony at length, reporting that Shiskin emphasized that his conclusions were "very tentative," but that the bleak statistics on the current job picture "may be obscuring 'leading indicators' pointing to future improvement."

Other Major Stories:

The balance of the front pages are dominated by Indochina or related stories.

Malcolm Browne's account in the Times of Thieu's speech Friday quotes the South Vietnamese President as saying the idea that the war could be won with an additional \$330 million is "absurd... (and) especially absurd considering that the Americans who fought the Communists for six years with billions of dollars have withdrawn, leaving us behind to continue in fighting without money and without B-52's." Browne also reports that various high-ranking military officers have been holding almost non-stop conferences, with a view to persuading Thieu to step down.

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Greenway, in the Post, says Thieu's new premier is considered by political observers to be a loyal government servant and a Thieu supporter, "rather than an able politician or an inspiring leader." The observers viewed Thieu's speech and Cabinet change as a "further sign of Thieu's growing political weakness, nervousness and isolation," Greenway reports.

The Star carries a "Special" from the Times that reports that Western intelligence officials believe North Vietnam was now moving all but one of its eight reserve divisions into South Vietnam, an indicator they believe to be an accurate clue to Hanoi's intentions.

The Post also carries a story by Grieder in the lower right corner of Pg. 1 from freshman Democrat Berkley Bedell's district around Fort Dodge, Iowa. Grieder leads: "Every evening the TV news from Vietnam was tragic, but every day this week (Bedell) got a dispassionate message from his northwest Iowa constituents: Get America out of there."

Editorially, the Times observes that a decade of fierce polemics has failed to resolve the quarrel over Vietnam, and the paper suggests that more arguments and words will not settle the issue. "At this tragic hour," the Times says, the President should set an example to the nation of "dignified and constructive comment." Instead, "from the surreal setting of a Palm Springs golf course, President Ford through his press spokesman said on Monday that he attributed the rapid deterioration of South Vietnam's military situation "to the North violations and the "failure of Congress to put up the money" he feels is needed. At his press conference he said he would not point the finger, "but the clear implication of his replies to various questions was to do just that--once again at Congress," the Times says. The Times concludes: "This is a time for humility and for silence and for prayer. Deep and poisoned wounds have been inflicted upon Vietnam, some of them by Americans. Instead of words, let the healing actions begin."

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: The Situation Room
SUBJECT: Morning News Summary

The Washington Post

H.D.S. Greenway covers President Thieu's speech and cabinet reshuffle, which political observers view as a further sign of Thieu's growing political weakness, nervousness, and isolation. A companion article says many cities and towns reported lost to the North Vietnamese army, it has now become clear, were simply abandoned in a southward-moving panic that advanced far faster than the northern army. (A-1)

Lewis Simons reports on the first five communist regiments pressing northward for what is expected to be an all-out attack on Phnom Penh. He outlines the possible objective of the communists and explores the broad range of events leading to the current situation. (A-1)

David Fouquet, writing a special for the Post, quotes NATO sources to the effect that the inability of the U.S. to come to the aid of its allies in Southeast Asia is not taken as a warning that a similar fate could befall the alliance in time of need. (A-5)

A editorial says that the formation of a new government in Turkey does not mean progress in the Cyprus negotiations. Turkey has used the Cyprus dispute to arouse a nationalistic purpose, and compromise would make the new government vulnerable to rivals. The U.S. Congress does not seem to be budging either. The administration's new request to lift the aid ban is still dominated by personal defensiveness and institutional pride. Meanwhile, Cyprus goes deeper under. (A-10)

Rita Hauser says the collapse of your Middle East negotiation effort may be a blessing in disguise, a discarding of a mini-resolution in favor of bold diplomacy in which the interests of Israel and the U.S. should be coincidental and not divergent. If Israel is to relinquish real property, it should be in exchange for what has been lacking up to now: normalization of a conflict through a peace conference in which all parties, not the victor alone, abandon ancient claims in favor of a new reality. (A-10)

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Evans and Novak believe the collapse of South Vietnam can be traced to President Thieu's personality -- authoritarian, stubborn, but impulsive -- along with new military conditions. For the White House to blame Congress is political overkill. Thieu's military withdrawal without prior planning was unlikely to succeed. What doomed it was the flood of civilian refugees which began immediately. (A-11)

Clayton Fritchey views the failure of personal diplomacy to reach agreement in the Middle East as an opportunity for Moscow and Washington to make a new joint effort toward stabilizing the region. Your return empty-handed is no cause for unrelieved despair, and your long negotiations with both sides may have cleared away enough underbrush to improve the chances of getting a settlement at Geneva. There is little justification for alarmist talk about an imminent new Mideast war. It is time to put detente to a real test, not through an imposed peace by the super powers but through making it possible for both the Arabs and Israelis to reach an agreement they say they want but cannot seem to negotiate for themselves. (A-11)

The Washinton Star

North Vietnam is believed to be moving all but one of its eight reserve divisions in South Vietnam, according to Western intelligence officials. The communists now have an estimated 20 divisions in the south. (A-1)

The Rockefeller commission announced there was "no credible evidence" of CIA involvement in President Kennedy's assassination. (A-6)

The Baltimore Sun

Walt W. Rostow contends the U.S. should land two marine divisions in North Vietnam and keep them there with air and naval support until the communists agree to abide by the 1973 Paris peace accords. He said the executive and legislature should come together to design a firm course of action. (A-2)

Gilbert Lowthwaite says the French view the Vietnam crisis with a sense of deja vu. It is only the manner and speed with which South Vietnam is collapsing, rather than the fact the communists are winning, that causes the surprise. (A-2)

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Henry Trehwitt writes of the doubt some of President Ford's specialists have about the decision to emphasize the disarray in foreign policy just before asking Congress and the public to unite behind him. A State Department official said he would go before Congress in a "weak position" and would need "an attitude of greater confidence." For his views to prevail he will have to generate a sea of change in congressional and public attitudes. (A-4)

Carry Wills thinks your step-by-step diplomacy failed partly because you tried to divide things into too small segments. If Moscow and Washington had worked together for a joint Egyptian-Syrian agreement, rather than Egypt alone, it might have carried more weight with the Israelis. Yet there is danger in the all or nothing approach to the problem advocated by Stanley Hoffman. To encourage Israel to weaken its ties to America is to encourage the worst tendencies in both countries. (A-17)

The New York Times

Malcolm Browne highlights President Thieu's cabinet shift and criticism of the U.S. Various high-ranking South Vietnamese officers have been holding almost nonstop conferences with the national leadership in an attempt to persuade Thieu to step down. It is rumored that the communists plan to give President Thieu until next Tuesday to resign and if he has not done so, they will attack. (1)

Leslie Gelb quotes one White House official as saying that the positions of the three aircraft carriers normally in the western Pacific had not changed but that they would react swiftly to any evacuation contingency plans. (1)

Henry Giniger details the new constitution imposed on Portugal by the Armed Forces Movement. The document guarantees that all essential power for the next three to five years is vested in the military council. Acceptance of the constitution by all the major political parties has in effect turned the upcoming election into a plebiscite for the armed forces. (1)

Richard Eder assesses the polemics of Portuguese politics and concludes that at this stage it seems that the armed forces movement seems to be looking in the long run to a Portugal with a socialist economy and a multiparty system and -- for some time to come -- continued membership in NATO. (2)

Richard Halloran examines the reemergence of confrontation between President Pak and his critics -- the most potentially explosive of which are the students. An adjoining article re-

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ports a speech by President Park in which he warned that political troubles within South Korea could tempt the North Koreans to invade. Korean news dispatches have said that Seoul has received assurances of support from President Ford and that Secretary Schlesinger will visit South Korea this summer. (4)

John Finney writes the Defense Department is arguing against further large-scale shipments of arms to Vietnam until the South Vietnamese demonstrate a will to fight. Secretary Schlesinger is advancing the Pentagon position and he believes the South Vietnamese already have sufficient arms to defend Saigon. (7)

Drew Middleton writes that U.S. military sources believe the North Vietnamese have almost completed preparations for a final assault on Saigon, and they strongly doubt that Saigon could launch a spoiling operation to interfere with the communists' plans. Hanoi believes that no amount of new U.S. military assistance can stop them. (9)

Malcolm Brown relates the increasing bitterness towards the U.S. being felt by the South Vietnamese who have been loyal to Washington as they witness the baby airlift while being unable themselves to depart. (9)

The Pentagon believes that no sensitive weapons have fallen into North Vietnamese hands. (9)

Bernard Gwertzman writes that you see little prospect of saving Saigon short of an unexpected military turnaround. No efforts for negotiations with Hanoi are currently being pursued because the administration believes that Hanoi thinks it can achieve its goals militarily. (10)

A Moscow newspaper has sharply criticized the U.S. of interference in South Vietnam in violation of the Paris peace agreement. (10)

The Times believes that this is not the time for recriminations on the issue of Vietnam. The President should set an example to the nation of dignified and constructive comment. This is a time for humility, silence, and prayer. (28)

Another editorial calls on the U.S. to take up the moral commitment of humanitarian aid to the people of Vietnam. Vietnam now has been seen as an earthquake, not a battlefield. (28)

Donald Kirk of the Council on Foreign Relations argues that the only way out of the Cambodian bloodbath is for the U.S. to recognize the political realities and sue for an orderly surrender of the Cambodian government. (29)

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C. L. Sulzberger writes that if there is any lesson for Washington resulting from its Southeast Asian policy it is that Asians generally understand their political future better than even the best-intending Westerners. It is regrettable that after all your dealings with the North Vietnamese you did not find time to talk with Prince Sihanouk. Mr. Sihanouk is a serious, highly intelligent man and is an ideological conservative. (29)